

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03 SY-07 M-03 A-01 RSR-01 /109 W

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R 141145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6236

INFO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0543

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJECT: KHARTOUM ASSASSINATIONS: MEETING WITH MIN PUB SERVICES
ABD AL- RAHMAN

1. SUMMARY: MIN ABD AL- RAHMAN REITERATED PRES NIMAIRI GOS
DETERMINATION PURSUE " JUSTICE" AND " SEVERE PUNISHMENT" FREE OF
EXTERNAL INFLUENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. WASHINGTON VISIT: I CALLED ON MIN ABD AL- RAHMAN THIS MORNING
TO THANK HIM FOR VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND EXPRESSED USG
ADMIRATION OF MANNER IN WHICH HE CONDUCTED HIS MISSION. I ADDED
I WOULD BE MAKING SIMILAR REMARKS TO FONMIN WHEN I HOPEFULLY
SEE HIM TOMORROW. ABD AL- RAHMAN REVIEWED WITH SOBER EMOTION HIS
ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN FUNERAL
SERVICES AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH PRES AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS.
HE NOTED ONE LESSON WHICH SUDAN HAD LEARNED FROM THIS TRAGEDY
WAS " STAMINA" OF AMERICAN PEOPLE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY MRS. NOEL
AND MRS. MOORE.

3. CURRENT GOS ATTITUDE: FOLLOWING REITERATION WHAT I ASSUME
WAS HIS PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON ON GOS OUTRAGE AND REVULSION
OVER CRIME, I INQUIRED OBLIQUELY FOR HIS ASSESSMENT ANY MOVEMENT
IN SUDANESE PUBLIC AND GOS ATTITUDES TOWARD ASSASSINATIONS
BETWEEN HIS DEPARTURE AND RETURN. HE REPLIED HE SAW NO CHANGE;
EVEN THOSE ELEMENTS WITHIN SUDAN WHO ARE ANTI- GOVERNMENT " FOR
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WHATEVER REASON" ARE UNITED BY MAGNITUDE OF " INSULT" TO SUDAN AS WELL AS PERSONAL TRAGEDIES INVOLVED. ALL ARE COMMITTED TO " STRONG" PURSUIT OF " JUSTICE". HE ADDED TENOR SUDANESE OPINION FAVORS " PUNISHMENT" WHICH HE THEN RESTATED AS " SEVERE PUNISHMENT". HE NOTED PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING THAT INVESTIGATION PHASE WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN A FEW DAYS AND HIS EXPECTATION THAT TRIAL WILL BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

4. I INQUIRED AS TO WHAT HE FELT WOULD BE TIME FRAME OF TRIAL. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC PREDICTION, BUT RECONFIRMED TRIAL WILL BE MILITARY AND THAT " IN THE MANNER THINGS" SUCH TRIALS DO NOT LAST LONG.

5. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES FOR LENIENCY: I NOTED MY RECOGNITION OF HOST POLICY PROBLEMS WHICH THIS TRAGEDY POSES FOR SUDAN IN TERMS ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND VARIOUS PRESSURES TO WHICH GOS IS SUBJECTED. ABD AL- RAHMAN DISMISSED SUCH PRESSURES, SAYING THEY WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE ONLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT: THE PERSONALITY AND ATTITUDE OF PRES NIMAIRI WHO FULLY REFLECTS SUDANESE NATIONAL ATTITUDES IN PURSUING " JUSTICE". HE ADDED THAT " ONCE AGAIN" ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAD " MISUNDERSTOOD" PSYCHOLOGY AND MORES OF SUDANESE.

6. COMMENT: ABD AL- RAHMAN' S STATEMENTS -- ALL EXPRESSED WITH CONSIDERABLE CARE-- ON CONTINUED GOS DEDICATION TO SEEKING " JUSTICE" FOR MURDERERS IS REASSURING IN VIEW PLEAS FOR CLEMENCY ORIGINATING FROM RADICAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND PARTIES. KHARTOUM DIP CORPS IS ALSO BETTING NIMAIRI WILL BE FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE SOME ACCOMODATION ON RATIONAL POLICY GROUNDS. HOWEVER, ABD AL- RAHMAN, FRESH FROM RECENT CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT, COULD, IF HE HAD WISHED, BEGUN TO SET THE STAGE FOR GOS WAFFLING. SINCE HE DIDN' T, WE BELIEVE IT IS GOOD EVIDENCE THAT NIMAIRI' S PERSONAL ATTITUDES REMAIN FIRM. FRITTS

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